Message Text

UNCLAS CANBERRA 3652

INFO AMCONSUL BRISBANE
USMISSION GENEVA
US DEL MTN GENEVA
AMCONSUL MELBOURNE
USMISSION OECD PARIS
AMCONSUL PERTH
AMCONSUL SYDNEY

SYDNEY ALSO PASS TRADE CENTER.

EO 11652: NA.

TAGS: ETRC, GATT, OECD, AS

SUBJECT: AUSTRALIAN IMPORT RESTRICTIONS: REQUESTS FOR PROT-

ECTION FROM FLAT GLASS, GLASSWARE IMPORTS DENIED.

REF: (A) CANBERRA 2589. (B) CANBERRA 3540.

1. SPECIAL MINISTER OF STATE ANNOUNCED JUNE 4 THAT GOA HAD ACCEPTED TAA RECOMMENDATION AGAINST TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE TO THE FLAT GLASS AND TABLE AND GLASSWARE INDUSTRIES.

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2. TAA BASED ITS RECOMMENDATION ON FACT THAT IMPORTS

HAD DECLINED SUBSTANTIALLY AND EXPECTED TREND IN THE TRADE FOR BALANCE OF 1975 INDICATED QTE NO URGENT ACTION NECESSARY END QTE WITHIN THE TERMS OF THE ORIGINAL REFERENCE (REF A). REPORT ALSO SUGGESTED CLOSE WATCH ON IMPORTS, HOWEVER, TO ENSURE QTE NO UNFORESEEN TRENDS PREJUDICE RECOVERY OF PRODUCTION END QTE OF ITEMS IN QUESTION. TAA STATED THAT SEPTEMBER 1974 DEVALUATION, INCREASED FREIGHT RATES AND REMOVAL OF DEVELOPING COUNTRY PREFERENCES HAD REDUCED AND WOULD CONTINUE TO REDUCE IMPORT COMPETITION WITH PRODUCTS OF DOMESTIC INDUSTRY.

3. COMMENT: WE DRAW MODERATE ENCOURAGEMENT FROM THIS DECISION THAT WAVE OF AUSTRALIAN RESTRAINT MEASURES MAY BE SUBSIDING AS CAUTIOUSLY SUGGESTED BY MIN. OVERSEAS TRADE CREAN TO AMBASSADOR JUNE 2 (REF B). WE NOT THAT DECLINING LEVEL OF IMPORTS WAS IMPORTANT CONSIDERATION; IT IS LIKELY ALSO TO PROVE SIGNIFICANT IN OTHER DECISIONS NOW PENDING AS DISTINCT DOWNTURN IN IMPORTS EVIDENT IN RECENT MONTHS ON GLOBAL BASIS.

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